

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the captioned Application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A surgical device for removing organic fluids from a body cavity, the device comprising an absorbing plug, a tubular body suitable for slidingly housing the plug, and a plunger slidingly engageable in the tubular body so as to push the plug outside thereof and place it at the surgical site, the tubular body and plunger having a distal end and a proximal end, wherein the plug is connected to at least one radio-opaque plug locator ball for floating relative to internal organs, blood or other fluids present at the surgical site, and that at the distal end of the plunger, a handle is provided for gripping the [locator] ball and recovering the plug after use by retracting the plunger inside the tubular body.

Claim 2 (currently amended) The device set forth in claim 1, wherein the [locator comprises] at least one ball is connected to the plug by a wire, ~~the ball having a specific weight generally lower than that of the internal organs, blood or other fluid present at the surgical site.~~

Claim 3 (previously presented) The device set forth in claim 2, wherein the at least one ball has relatively smaller dimensions than the inside of the tubular body.

Claim 4 (previously presented) The device set forth in claim 1, wherein the plunger includes a stem and the handle has a loop at a distal end of the stem, the loop being generally wider than the locator.

Claim 5 (previously presented) The device set forth in claim 4, wherein the loop is formed by a relatively thin plate bent and connected at its ends to the distal end of the stem.

Claim 6 (previously presented) The device set forth in claim 1, wherein at the proximal end of the tubular body and of the stem, a handle is provided for actuating axial sliding of the stem in one direction or the other as a result of corresponding pressure actions exerted simultaneously in opposite directions on the handle.

Claim 7 (previously presented) The device set forth in claim 6, wherein the handle is of a ring type so as to allow its engagement with fingers of a user.

Claim 8 (previously presented) The device set forth in claim 7, wherein a pair of handle rings are provided at the proximal end of the tubular body, the rings being generally diametrically opposite to and coplanar with one another, whereas at the proximal end of the stem, a handle ring is provided, generally coplanar thereto.

Claim 9 (previously presented) The device set forth in claim 1, wherein the locator has a white or other relatively light colored surface.

Claim 10 (previously presented) An organic fluid absorbing plug for surgical use, the plug comprising an elongated body constructed of a material having haemostatic properties, the body being connected to a radio-opaque plug locator for floating relative to internal organs, blood or other fluids present at the surgical site, the body and the locator being generally simultaneously delivered to and recovered from the surgical site.

Claim 11 (cancelled).

Claim 12 (currently amended) [An] The organic fluid absorbing plug set forth in claim 10, wherein the locator has a white or other relatively light colored surface.